

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A loader for operating working attachments, the ~~apparatus~~ loader comprising:

a support frame including a pair of ~~rearwardly and upwardly extending~~ side members adjacent a rear of the loader;

a ground drive comprising supports on opposite sides of the loader for propelling the loader-apparatus;

a boom having first and second ends, the first end of the boom pivotally attached to the ~~rearwardly and upwardly extending~~ side members of the support frame and positioned so that it extends forwardly relative to the side members, the second end of the boom configured to receive a working attachment at a forward end of the support frame, the boom being formed in an arc between the first and second ends;

an actuator, the actuator being ~~operatively~~ connected between the boom and the support frame to enable the boom to pivot the boom with respect to the support frame; and,

a power source for providing power to the actuator; ~~and~~
at least one selectively positionable counterweight pivotably mounted on the support frame about an upright pivot axis along a side of the support frame, the upright pivot axis being positioned with respect to a center of gravity of the loader, the counterweight having first and second positions about the upright pivot axis, a major portion of the counterweight being positioned on a forward side of a vertical plane passing through the center of gravity in a first pivoted position and being positioned on a rearward side of the vertical plane in a second pivoted

position.

10.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising at least one coupling, the coupling configured to operatively connect the power source to a working attachment.

11.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the coupling is attached to the second end of the boom.

12.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the power source comprises a pump operatively connected to a power supply.

13.(Canceled)

14.(Currently Amended) An apparatus for operating working attachments, the apparatus comprising:

a ground engaging wheeled carriage comprising powered first and second endless tracks on sides of the carriage;

a power source for providing power to the wheeled carriage; and,

a controller, the controller operatively controlling the power source to selectively drive the endless track of the wheeled carriage, the controller including first linkages and second linkages, the first and second linkages being connected to control power to the first and second tracks, respectively; whereby the first and second tracks may be independently operated;

the power source including a first drive unit and a second drive unit, with the first and second drive units operatively connected to the first and second tracks, and wherein the first and second linkages are operatively connected to the first and second drive

units, respectively, the first and second linkages being urged into and maintained in a predetermined position in which the drive units are effectively disengaged from the tracks, the first and second linkages including first and second brackets, and wherein the controller further comprises first and second centering cam members, the first and second centering cam members being configured to urge and maintain the first and second brackets in predetermined positions;

- a support frame attached to the wheeled carriage, the support frame including a pair of laterally spaced rearwardly and upwardly extending side members; and,
- a boom having two ends, one end of the boom pivotally attached to the rearwardly and upwardly extending side members of the support frame and positioned between the side members and so that it the boom extends forwardly relative to the side members, the other end of the boom configured to receive a working attachment.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~16~~14, wherein the power source further includes an engine operatively connected to the first and second drive units.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20.(Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~19~~14, wherein the first and second centering members include V-shaped cam notches, respectively, which are configured to receive and guide a respective displacement arm of the first and second brackets into the predetermined positions in the absence of an operator's input.

21.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 20, further including first and second stops, wherein the first and second stops are configured to engage the first and second centering members, respectively, to permit synchronization of the first and second drive units.

22.(Original) A self propelled loader for operating working attachments, the loader comprising:

- a ground engaging drive carriage;
- a support frame attached to the driver carriage, the support frame including a pair of rearwardly and upwardly extending side members;
- a loader boom movably attached to the side members of the support frame and positioned so that the loader boom extends forwardly relative to the side members, a forward end of the loader boom configured to releasably retain and operate a working attachment, the loader having a predetermined center of gravity; and
- at least one selectively positionable counterweight movably mounted on the support frame, the counterweight being movable with respect to a laterally extending vertical plane passing through the center of gravity of the loader to opposite sides of the plane for modifying the effect of the counterweight on the loading capabilities of the forward end of the loader boom.

23.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the at least one selectively positionable counterweight may be diametrically positioned relative to the vertical plane..

24.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein there are two selectively positional counterweights, one on each side of the support frame.

25.(Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the selectively positionable counterweights are pivotably attached to and positioned on an outside surface of the side members of the support frame for movement about an upright axis. |

26.(Original) The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the counterweights are pivotably mounted to position a mounting of the counterweight forwardly and rearwardly with respect to the vertical plane.

27.(Currently Amended) A method of extending the operational parameters of a walk behind apparatus for operating working attachments comprising:

- a walk behind apparatus including:

- a ground engaging drive carriage;

- a support frame attached to the drive carriage, the support frame including a pair of rearwardly and upwardly extending side members; and,

- a boom having two ends, one end of the boom pivotally attached to the rearwardly and upwardly extending side members of the support frame and positioned so that it extends forwardly relative to the side members, the other end of the boom configured to receive a working attachment;

The method comprising:

attaching a movable counterweight to the support frame of the apparatus about an upright pivot adjacent a center of gravity of the apparatus, and

selectively positioning the counterweight ~~relative to~~ in a first position forwardly of the upright pivot and in a second position rearwardly of the pivot to position the counterweight selectively forwardly of and rearwardly of the center of gravity of the apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the attaching a movable counterweight further include attaching a pair of movable counterweights to the frame of the apparatus on opposite sides thereof.